

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 are pending in this application, of which claims 9-11 and 13-16 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for various informalities which has been corrected in the amendments above. The Examiner specifically complained that the term "means" found in line 6 is improper and should be corrected. Applicants cannot find this improper term on line 6 of the Abstract.

Claim 10 stands rejected to for an informality which has been corrected in the amendments above.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Accordingly, claim 10 has been amended to correct the noted instance of indefiniteness, and the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Accordingly, claims 10, 11 and 13 have been amended to clarify an initial position in which one end of "at least one" of the pressing members 13 is located on a circle and "the one end" of each of the other pressing members 13 located outside the circle, where "at least one" of the pressing members and the other pressing members form the entire group of pressing members 2 (21, 22, 23, 24) shown in Fig. 8.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 12, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Utility Model Publication No. SHO 51-139427 A to Yamamoto (hereafter "Yamamoto").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Yamamoto discloses a clip securing device having a securing claw 6 fitted in guide groove 5 toward the center of the axis of first disk 2, which can be advanced or retracted by rotation of outer disk 3.

Fig. 1 shows that securing claw 6, corresponding to the longitudinal pressing members of the present invention, is arranged in the same plane as the outer disk 3. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which rotational body 3 is arranged in a second plane which is parallel to the first plane containing the longitudinal pressing members, as recited in claim 9. We recommend similarly amending method claim 15 to recite that the pressing members are forced to move by rotating a rotational body arranged in a second plane (instead of being arranged in the first plane containing the pressing member).

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over **Yamamoto**.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, **Yamamoto** fails to teach or suggest the features recited in claim 9, from which claim 12 depends.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over **Yamamoto** in view of JP Application 03-238124 to Meiji Rubber and Chemical Co. Ltd (hereafter "**Meiji**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Meiji has been cited for teaching the movable claw recited in claims 11 and 14 but, like **Yamamoto**, discussed above, fails to teach or suggest the features recited in claims 9 and 14, as amended.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 9-16, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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